

Self Afflicter •

Lively described in the

whole course of the Life of Mr. *John Lilburn*, sometimes Lieut. Colonel in the Army of the PARLIAMENT.

His being Whipped, Gagged, and committed Prisoner to the Fleet by the sentence of the Bishops, and the Star-Chamber.

His Arraignment for his life by the Expresse command of the late King before the house of Lords.

The arraignment of him for his life at Oxford being taken Prisoner at Brainford.

His commitment to the Tower by the House of Lords, and his long imprisonment there.

His arraignment before the Commissioners at Guild Hall for Treason.

His banishment beyond the Seas. His arraignment afterwards at the Sessions in the Old-Baily, and his confinement againe beyond the Seas.

With his natural death at last by sicknesse.

Together with the Notable Difference betwixt the Levellers and Quakers about the black cloth to be laid over his Coffin when he was to be interred.

Printed purposely to vindicate the truth against a late Foolish Pamphlet lately published called an Exact and true Narration.

Printed for Tho. Vere and W. Gillbertson 1657.



A True Account of the

most Memorable Passages on the
Life and Death of Mr. JOHN LIL-
BURN: sometimes Lievetenant Col-
onell in the Victorious Army of the
PARLIAMENT, &c.



I give you a view of his
whole Life, and how
much at all times he op-
posed with all his power
this present Govern-
ment: is so well that
up into a Volume, which

is meant for a single sheet: we shall propor-
tion our discourse according to the Emer-
gency of the Advantages, in which we shall
be carefull, not to be injurious to y^e Reader,
nor unprofitable to our selves.

Some are of Opinion that this man of
extraordinary Spirit and understanding did
not so much strike at the present Govern-
ment, as at the Enormities which he con-
ceived to be too rank, or gnawing in that
Government: Let them think what they
please, we shall represent unto you the most
Materiall passages that concerned him, And

that without flattery, or affection, the causes whereof are far asunder from us.

John Lilburn the famous subject of this present discourse, was born in the Peare 1618. At Thickey in the County of Durham; He was Discended of Ancient and worshipfull parentage, and being very yong he was brought up to London, and bound an Apprentice to a Packer of Cloth in St. Swichens Lane: he was from his Cradle of a high and undanted Spirit, of a quick and pregnant Apprehension, of an excellent memory, but al wayes extremely addicted to contention, a lover of novelties an opposer of Government, unsettled in his judgement, and violent and bitter in his expressions.

About the year 1632. he disliking his trade, had a mind to the Law, and became a servant to Mr. William Prin of Lincolns-Inne, who for wrighting some Bookes and amongst others that called Histriomastix, in which the State as the Players were whipped, was imprisoned with those that bended the Book, and censured by the Bishops.

John Lilburn did then begin the quarel, and full of his Masters Cause did write a Book against the Bishops, for which he was committed

committed prisoner to the Fleet, and whipped at a Carttaile from the prison of the Fleet, to Westminster.

The Indignity whereof sate so heavy upon his Spirits, that even when the punishment was inflicting on him he ceased not to rattle against his persecutors, insomuch that they caused him to be gagged.

In the year 1640 he was released by the Parliament, and took upon him the place of a Captain in their service, and in the year 1642. not long after the battle at Edge Hill he was taken prisoner at Braimford, and carried to Oxford, where he was Arraigned not long Afterwards as a Traytor, for leuying war against the person of the King, but his life was never in so much jeopardy as when he was arraigned at Guild-hall for endeavoring to disturb the peace and subvert the Government of this Nation, established without a King.

Several books to this purpose were laid to his charge, as a traytorious and scandalous book intituled a *Salva Libertate*: Also a traytorious and a scandalous book intituled *An Impeachment of High Treason against Oliver Cromwell, and his Son in Law Henry Ireton Esquire*, Also a scandalous

lous and a trayterous book intituled, The
 Outcry of the young-men, and the Apprenti-
 ces of London, or an inquisition after the
 lost fundamentall laws and liberties of
 England, &c. Also another scandalous and
 trayterous book intituled The legall fundam-
 mentall liberties of the people of England
 revived. Also another scandalous book inti-
 tuled, A preparation to a hue and cry after
 sir Arthur Heselrigge, In which Bookes it
 was laid to his charge, that he did publish
 that the Government then in present was
 tyrannicall usurped, And unlawfull, And
 that the Commons then in Parliament As-
 sembled were not the supream Authority
 of the Nation.

He had also further indicted, that he as a
 fall traitor did maliciously plot and contrive
 to raise forces against the present Govern-
 ment for the subversion and Alteration of
 it, And did also maliciously endeavor to
 with-draw certain Souldiers of the Lord
 Fairfax his Army, from their obedience to
 their superiour offices. It was also laid to
 his charge that trayterously and contume-
 liously he had spoken very reproachfull
 words against the Lord Generall, sir Tho-
 mas Fairfax, as also against the high Court
 of

of Justice.

The Indictment held a long time. being read, Mr. Attorney did present unto the Jury of what Dangerous Consequence were these traitterous books, and how much derogating from the honor of the Parliament And the Counsell of State, And of the chief Captain and Generall of the Army. And other Officers Included in the Indictment whose fame doth ring through the world, Never Army (said Mr. Attorney) hath done greater things, & yet they have not escaped from being Slandered by Mr. Lilburns tongue and pen. And not long after upon consideration of the evidence and witnesses he told the Jury that if they did respect the Government of the Parliament the honor of the Counsell of State, And the honor of the Nation, or of the Army, or the persecutions of the Laws of the Nation, they could not say but the prisoner was guilty of those crimes and treasons of which he was Accused And that they were obliged accordingly so to find him, And then Addressing his speech to Mr. Keeble, who was Lord Chief Commissioner And to the Judges and Barrons. He declares unto them how the Indictment was proved by witnesse And evidence

dences, and that the trayterous booke intituled the Legall fundamentall liberties was owned by Mr. Lilburn himself in his Impeachment of high Treason against Lieutenant Generall Cromwell. And his Son in Law Commissary Ireton, my Lords said he, you have heard the severall charges wherewith he stands accused, you have heard a great deal of foul matter and dirt, that is fit for nothing but to be cast upon the ground, and returns to Mr. Lilburn again: the prisoner hath cast those Accusations and blemishes upon others but they return to his own face. Certainly the Parliament of England, the Army, And all the Officers of it (whose name both as Parliament and Army are known in an extraordinary manner) Are now put in a ballance against Mr. Lilburn. And as for the Army and the Officers of it, no man can say but that they have been faithfull and true in their trust, valiant, courageous, And Successfull to Admiration, even to the Peace and the Happinesse of this Nation, And God is pleased at this instant to owne them and blesse them in a miraculous manner.

This

This and much more excellently spoken by Mr. Attorney, was to lay open to the Lord Judges, And to the Jury, the crimes of the offender, And the Lord Keeble, who was Lord Commissioner, having suggested unto the Jury what their duty was, And the Religion of an oath did represent unto them, that they should consider the strength of the Accusation, which did consist in those scandalous and trayterous Books, which did consist of three heads.

The first was to billicie the Parliament and State, as it was then established in England: the second to take into their considerations, his counsells and Invitations therein for the firing up of tumults, wars, And Commotions in the Nation.

And the third, was the thing cited in the book to divide the Army, that the other might take effect. These (said he) are the three main charges, And these the Bookes that do come from him do plainly testifie. When directing his speech to Mr. Wilburn, at y^e bar. In this Act saith he, of yours thus declared (if your intentions had taken effect the plot was the greatest that ever England saw: For it struck at no lesse then at the Subvertion of the Common Wealth;
of

of this State to have laid & put us al in blood:
 Your plot was such as never was seen in
 the world before to proceed from a private
 man as you are, And it must needs sit heavy
 upon your conscience. Therefore (turning
 again to the Jury) he said you my Masters
 of the Jury, look into your consciences, And
 see what that saith unto you. That which
 the prisoner stands too much upon, Viz. the
 witnesses is made plain and good in Law.
 I do not know in one particular that there
 is a single Testimony but it is Aggravated
 with many circumstances, therefore let not
 that trouble you, you are the proper Judges
 of the matter of Fact, being of the Coun-
 try, And if you have fully Apprehended
 the dangerous things plotted in these books
 of Mr. Lilburn, you shall find that the like
 treason was never hatched in England, and
 so in Gods name As the prisoner doth lead
 to your consciences, so go and do

Mr. Lilburn in the mean time who had
 much wasted his Spirits, And had with
 great earnestnesse been pleading for his
 life two dayes before at the Barre, did omit
 nothing to insinuate into the Jury an Ap-
 prehension of his innocency, He protested
 that he never owned nor signed any Booke
 that

that was proved against him: he disclaimed every Title of them. He certified y^e Bench that no booke in the eye of the Law could be accounted his, unless it were Legally proved or voluntary confessed to be his by himself.

To prove this he Alleged by severall Statutes, that it shoule be by two witness: which he said they failed in, although Mr. Attorney. And the Lord Keeble did endeavor to give the Jury all possible satisfaction therein:

He much insisted to have Counsell to plead his Case in Law, which would not then be granted, Although he urged Examples as he said both by Law and president, which made him sometimes to use exclamations more violent then became the condition of a prisoner.

He represented what a serviceable Instrument he had been in the common cause of the Nation in which to the hazard of his life one hundred times over he had ingaged for them with his sword in his hand, with as much resolution and faithfulness as ever man on earth served a Generation of men, having never betrayed his trust, nor ever given any Suspition in the least that he would

would, nor ever so much as staggered in his principles, nor never so much as disputed any Commends though never so desperate that were laid upon him.

Addressing himself to the Jury, he said unto them, you Gentlemen of the Jury, my sole Judges, the Keepers of my life, At whose hands the Lord will require my blood in case you leave any part of my Indictment to these — I desire you to know your power, And consider your duty both to God, and me, to your owne selves; And to your Country, And the gracious Assisting spirit, And the presence of the Lord God, Omnipotent, the Governor of Heavens and Earth. And all things therein contained, go along with you guide, counsel you, and direct you to that which is just And for his glory.

The Jury having withdrawn themselves, And consulted about the prisoner and his offences, for the space of three quarters of an hour, Did come into the Court again, And did bring in their verdict of him as not Guilty, At which the multitude that Attended in the Hall, to observe the event, did make so loud an acclamation for almost half an hour together, that

that the like was seldome heard. Mr. Alburn being that Night sentred to the Tower, where at that time he had been prisoner for the space of seven months, was about a fortnight afterwards released from thence by the order of the Counsell of State.

Being now at liberty he was much inclined to the study of the Law, which in his hardest distresse he found so successful unto him.

But it was not long before he again fell under the displeasure of the Parliament, whereupon he was by an Act Fined, banished the Common wealth of England, And if ever he returned again he was to die as a Traytor.

In obedience hereunto he went over into the Nether lands, And it was laid to his charge that there he came Acquainted with the Duke of Buckingham, the Lord Hopton, Captain Titus, Mr. Bartlett and others, & y^e for y^e sum of ten thousand pounds he offered to settle the Government of this

Patron

Patience in the same State as it was before the wars began, which whether true or false I will not take upon me to dispute: But howsoever it was, he had a great mind to return unto his Native Country, inasmuch that without any leave he returned againe into England, And thereupon being Apprehended and brought to Newgate, he was tried for his life at the Sessions house in the Old Bayly, on Saturday the 20. of August, in the year 1653, where he found such favour, that the Jury did again Acquitt him.

Not long afterwards he was conducted by a Troop of horse to Portsmouth, being once more bound for beyond y^e Seas, where making use of all his friends, and putting in security for the peaceableness of his future deportment, he Landed at Dover. And falling at first into the Acquaintance of that Generation of men called Quakers, he was so taken with their Heat of Zeale and their hatred of the world, y^e he never afterwards Abandoned them but preaching after their Carbs and methode, Sometimes on the Lords day at Eltham, And sometimes at Woolidge he surrendered his prepared soul to him that gave it him,

One thing I cannot well omit that hap-

ned at his Buriall, which is that his
 wife, or some Lebellers of his old Acquain-
 tance (as others say) had brought a Black
 Cloth to cover his hearse, the Quakers
 would by no means admit of it, Alledging
 that the lesse there was of pomp, there was
 the more of piety. And thus thorow many
 Contentions and variety of opinions, he at
 last wrangled himself into the grave, dying
 on Saturday the 29. of August, 1657. And
 was buried the Monday following in the
 new Church yard near Bedlam.



An Epitaph on Mr.

JOHN LILBURN,

HE in his life who nere did cease,
 To beat down Government &
 whose own sword abhor'd to see *peace*
 The Iron with the Steele agree,
 And scornd the pen that did not drink
 Far more of Copres then of Ink.
 The scourge of *peace*, the loule of *Wars*,
 The hur-burly of the Stars,

VVhom

Whom neither creatures force nor fame,
 Nor Love, nor fear alive could tame,
 But Orders would and Laws forcell,
 And level Church, and state, and all,
 Lyes now to have one Dust exprest,
 What wonders Death can do at rest.

Another Epitaph on John Lilburn,

Here's John Lilburn in good time deceast
 After much wrangling, now he's gone to rest.
 If Factionous Spirits stil much coyl do keep,
 Pray blame not him, he's fairly laid asleep.
 whether i'th right or wrong he hath thus left us:
 stout death of this stout champion hath bereft us
 Who liking not the furious noise he made,
 Threw dust upon him, so the storm was laid.

Upon the late untimely death of

JOHN LILBURN:

Untimely cause so late, and late because,
 To save much mischief: it no soe ner was,
 Is John departed? and is Lilburn gone?
 Farewel to both, to Lilburn and to John,
 Yet being dead, take this advice from me.
 Let them not both in one grave buried be;
 But lay John here, lay Lilburn hereabout:
 For if they ever meet they wil fall out.

FINIS.

